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Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security
Council established pursuant to
resolution 1170 (1998)

CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSALS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

I. MANDATE

According to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1170 (1998) on the report of the Secretary-General on conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, the mandate of the Working Group is to review all recommendations in the report related to the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and in that context, to prepare a framework for the implementation of recommendations, as appropriate, and to submit specific proposals for concrete action for consideration by the Council by September 1998.

II. LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Annexes I and II contain, respectively:

(a) The list of recommendations by the Secretary-General relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, which are therefore within the competence of the Security Council;

(b) The global list of the recommendations by the Secretary-General set out in his report (A/52/871-S/1998/318) of 13 April 1998.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mid-June 1998

Formal meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group attended by experts.

Agenda for this meeting

1. To consider the possibility of meetings, during the second half of June, of a "common core group" (of political [military] advisers and experts on African issues).

2. To identify the recommendations which fall entirely or partly within the competence of the Security Council.

3. To accord priority, depending on their importance, urgency and feasibility, to those recommendations which are identified as requiring discussion within the Security Council.

4. On the basis of this identification, to draw up a programme of work setting out priorities according to their importance and urgency.

5. To note the recommendations on which no consensus on priority is reached in the Working Group.

6. To set up thematic groups as needed to deal specifically with certain issues, such as the criteria for deploying peacekeeping missions, the flow of arms, etc.

The meetings of this common core working group would be chaired by Gabon.

July-August 1998

(a) Meetings of the thematic working groups.

(b) Meetings of the common core group to:

- Take stock of the work done in the thematic working groups;

- Maintain contact with OAU concerning the ongoing work.

About the beginning of September, the common core working group would meet to:

- Review the work of the groups and prepare a mid-term draft report (to include a timetable for future work) to be submitted to the Security Council;

- Finalize the draft decisions (resolutions, Chairman's statements) to be submitted to the Council;

- Draw up proposals based on the recommendations which have been accepted and on a draft resolution to be discussed by the Council in September.

Mid-September

The Security Council would consider and approve the report of the Working Group and the draft decisions to be submitted subsequently to Ministers.

Annex I

Thematic list of recommendations within the field of competence of the Security Council

In his report on Africa, the Secretary-General makes many recommendations which can only be implemented through goodwill on the part of Member States and other international players. He also makes some proposals addressed specifically to the Security Council.

1. Conflict prevention and peacekeeping

Recommendations

Urge Governments in situations of potential or actual conflict to consider the appointment of special mediators or special commissions to build confidence and recommend practical solutions;

Encourage the establishment of structures such as contact groups, groups of "Friends" or special conferences to resolve crises and stabilize post-conflict situations;

Strengthen the effectiveness of arms sanctions regimes imposed by the Security Council, by making the violation of embargoes a criminal offence under the national laws of Member States;

Ensure better targeting of sanctions (for example, by aiming them more specifically at decision makers) so that they achieve their intended purpose;

Invite African countries to provide information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and to establish subregional registers of conventional arms;

Call upon African countries to reduce their arms expenditure to below 1.5 per cent of GDP and to commit themselves to a zero-growth policy for defence budgets for a period of 10 years;

Strengthen Africa's capacity for peacekeeping;

Encourage Member States to contribute to the United Nations and OAU trust funds established to improve preparedness for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa;

Create clearer criteria and a more predictable basis for determining when the Security Council is likely to support the deployment of peacekeeping operations.

Proposals specifically addressed to the Security Council

Address urgently the question of arms flow (particularly information on suppliers and intermediaries), and consider what role the United Nations might play in compiling, tracking and publicizing such information;

Support regional and subregional initiatives in Africa with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security;

Enhance the Council's ability to monitor activities authorized by it;

Create clearer criteria and a more predictable basis for determining when the Security Council is likely to support the deployment of peacekeeping operations.

2. Humanitarian assistance

Recommendations

Develop international legal machinery to facilitate efforts to find, attach and seize the assets of combatants and their leaders who are responsible for deliberate attacks on civilians, so that they may be held financially liable;

Fund human rights missions of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) from statutory contributions (instead of from voluntary contributions).

Annex II

Global thematic list of recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General

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Fund human rights missions of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) from statutory contributions (instead of from voluntary contributions);

Establish an international mechanism to assist host Governments in maintaining the security and neutrality of refugee camps and settlements (encompassing, for example, training, logistics, financial support, security personnel and the monitoring of national security arrangements).

3. Post-conflict peace-building

Recommendations

Give consideration to relaxing the normally strict financial conditions imposed by international lending institutions for countries that have emerged from conflict;

In some situations, adopt a "strategic framework" approach that would embrace political, human rights, humanitarian and development activities.

Proposals specifically addressed to the Security Council

Look favourably on the establishment of post-conflict peace-building support structures similar to the one in Liberia;

When a peacekeeping operation comes to an end, ensure that the concluding mandate includes specific recommendations for the transitional period to the post-conflict phase.

4. Good governance

Recommendations

Call upon African countries that have not done so to ratify United Nations and African instruments on human rights and to embody those instruments in national law as a matter of priority;

Call upon African States to develop a national plan of action for human rights;

Agree on a timetable for the early enactment of legislation in countries implementing the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions;

Call upon OAU to devise by the year 2000 a uniform African convention on the conduct of public officials and the transparency of public administration;

Urge all countries that have not done so to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to do so without reservation.

5. Sustainable development

Recommendations

Urge the convening of national conventions on economic restructuring and reform in countries where serious adjustment is required;

Focus special attention on multi-country infrastructure projects and projects for the exploitation of shared natural resources;

Consider the use of emergency and humanitarian resources for the purpose of combating treatable and preventable diseases;

Take measures to examine how best to restructure international aid to reduce dependency, promote primary social development objectives and reinforce efforts to make African economies more stable and competitive;

Urge donors to ensure that at least 50 per cent of their aid to Africa is spent in Africa;

Call upon all creditor countries to convert into grants all the remaining official bilateral debt of the poorest African countries;

Call upon the international financial institutions to significantly ease and quicken access to facilities for heavily indebted poor countries;

Urge that the question of eliminating trade barriers to African products be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the group of major industrialized

countries, with a view to the adoption of a common policy to be implemented on a bilateral basis and through the World Trade Organization;

Call upon African countries - with the support of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the European Union and others - to examine ways in which regional and subregional integration can be used to promote economic discipline and facilitate the establishment of solid institutional and confidence-building links between neighbouring States;

Call upon African countries to give priority to establishing uniform standards for equipment.